

Rule 1071-1

DIVISIONS -- BANKRUPTCY COURT

(a) The Middle District of Florida consists of those counties and places of holding court as designated in 28 U.S.C. § 89.

(b) The District shall be divided into four Divisions to be known as the Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Ft. Myers Divisions, as follows:

(1) The Jacksonville Division shall consist of the following counties: Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Union and Volusia. The place of holding court shall be Jacksonville.

(2) The Orlando Division shall consist of the following counties: Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole. The place of holding court shall be Orlando.

(3) The Tampa Division shall consist of the following counties: Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota. The place of holding court shall be Tampa.

(4) The Ft. Myers Division shall consist of the following counties: Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Collier, Hendry and Lee. The place of holding court shall be Ft. Myers; provided, however, the Ft. Myers docket shall be kept and administered as directed by the Chief Judge.

(c) All cases shall be commenced in that Division in which the domicile, residence, principal place of business, or principal assets of the person or entity that is the subject of such case have been located for the 180 days immediately preceding such commencement, or for a longer portion of 180 day period than the domicile, residence, principal place of business or principal assets of such person were located in any other Division; or in which there is pending a case under the Bankruptcy Code concerning such person's affiliate.

(d) If a case is filed in a Division other than as provided for in paragraph (c) above, the Court, on its own motion or the motion of any interested party, may order that the case be transferred to the Division as provided for in paragraph (c) above.

Notes of Advisory Committee

1997 Amendment

This amendment conforms the existing Local Rules to the uniform numbering system prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States and to the model system suggested and approved by the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference's Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. In renumbering the Local Rules to conform to the uniform numbering system, no change in substance is intended. This amendment is effective on April 15, 1997.

This rule was formerly Local Rule 1.03. The Advisory Committee Notes to the superseded rules may be helpful in interpreting and applying the current rules.

1995 Amendment

This amendment abolishes the Ocala Division as a separate, freestanding division of the Court and reassigns to the Jacksonville Divisions the counties that presently comprise the Ocala Division. Because of the lack of facilities available to the Court in Ocala, bankruptcy court has not been conducted in Ocala for some considerable period of time. For this reason, cases from counties comprising the Ocala Division have been treated by the Court as filed in and assigned to the Jacksonville Division. In March, 1994, the Judicial Conference of the United States deleted Ocala from the List of approved places for holding bankruptcy court. This amendment, therefore, merely conforms the Local Rules to existing practice.

These amendments were effective on February 15, 1995.